

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 H-01 OMB-01 IGA-02 TRSE-00

ACDA-07 MCE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 PA-01 /067 W

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R 080540Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3716

INFO CINCPAC

JCS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 9078

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PK, US

SUBJECT:ARMS TRANSFER POLICY

REF: STATE 207984

1. EMBASSY FULLY SUPPORTS GOALS OF THE PRESIDENT'S ARMS TRANSFER POLICY AS OUTLINED REFTEL AND BELIEVES THAT MISSION PROCEDURES AND PRACTICES ON MILITARY SALES ALREADY ESSENTIALLY CONFORM TO AND ARE SUPPORTIVE OF THAT POLICY.

2. MISSION HANDLING OF ARMS SALES TO PAKISTAN REFLECTS THE UNIQUE POLICY SITUATION IN THE SUBCONTINENT DICTATED BY THE LIFTING OF THE ARMS EMBARGO IN FEBRUARY, 1975. OUR CURRENT MILITARY SALES POLICY REFLECTS OUR NEW ARMS TRANSFER POLICY PLUS SEVERAL ELEMENTS OF NSDM 289 THAT REMAINS IN EFFECT. THIS POLICY EMPHASIZES THAT SALES ARE CONSIDERED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS AND SHOULD BE JUDGED IN TERMS OF OUR OVERALL POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC GOALS IN THE REGION.

3. IN 1975, THE EMBASSY DESIGNATED THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE POLITICAL SECTION AS POL/MIL OFFICER WHO WORKS CLOSELY WITH ODRP ON ALL ASPECTS OF MILITARY SALES. WHENEVER ODRP DISCUSSES CONFIDENTIAL

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IMPORTANT MILITARY TRANSFERS WITH THE PAK MILITARY, EMBASSY OFFICER ATTENDS TO EMPHASIZE ARMS SALES MUST BE SEEN AS PART OF OUR OVERALL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONSHIP WITH PAKISTAN, NOT IN ISOLATION. WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THE PAKISTAN MILITARY, AS WELL AS THE CIVILIAN SIDE OF THE GOP, FULLY APPRECIATES AND UNDERSTANDS THIS POSITION.

4. ODRP CAREFULLY FOLLOWS ARMS SALE GUIDELINES AND UNDERSTANDS ITS MANDATE WELL. IT IS NOT AN ADVISORY MISSION AND DOES NOT FUNCTION AS A TRADITIONAL MAAG. ITS PRIMARY FUNCTION IS TO FACILITATE CONTACTS AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE USG AND THE GOP ON ARMS TRANSFER QUESTIONS, NOT TO PUSH SALES OF AMERICAN ARMS OR GIVE ADVICE TO THE PAK MILITARY ON WHICH EQUIPMENT TO PURCHASE. WE HAVE AN EXCELLENT RELATIONSHIP WITH ODRP WHICH FULLY UNDERSTANDS ITS ROLE AND COOPERATES COMPLETELY WITH THE REST OF THE EMBASSY.

5. ANY REQUEST WHICH ODRP RECEIVES FROM THE PAKISTAN MILITARY FOR P&B, B&A DATA OR LOAS, MUST HAVE THE AMBASSADOR'S APPROVAL, FOLLOWING REVIEW BY POL AND THE DCM, BEFORE IT IS SENT TO WASHINGTON. STATE IS AN ADDRESSEE ON ALL SUCH MESSAGES. SIMILARLY, ANY COMMUNICATION TO THE PAK MILITARY FROM ODRP REQUIRES POL CLEARANCE.

6. AS REFTEL NOTES, AN ESSENTIAL POINT OF OUR NEW POLICY IS TO ENSURE THERE IS THOROUGH POLICY CONSIDERATION BY THE US AND WITHIN THE HOST GOVERNMENT TO A REQUEST FOR MAJOR DEFENSE EQUIPMENT. THIS IS ASSURED BY OUR EXISTING PROCEDURES. WE THEREFORE QUESTION THE NECESSITY OF IMPLEMENTING TWO OF THE PROCEDURES OUTLINED REFTEL. (A) THAT COMMUNICATIONS CONCERNING MAJOR DEFENSE EQUIPMENT BETWEEN GOP AND EMBASSY BE HANDLED BY DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS AND (B) THAT STATE CHANNELS BE USED TO REPORT ANY GOP INTEREST IN MUNITIONS LIST ITEMS. WE SUPPORT PURPOSE OF THESE PROCEDURES,

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BUT BELIEVE IT IS ALREADY MET. IF WE WERE TO MAKE THESE CHANGES, THERE WOULD BE NO SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE IN OUR HANDLING OF OUR ARMS SALES OR GOP APPRECIATION OF THE ROLE OF ARMS SALES IN OUR FOREIGN POLICY. THE ONLY DIFFERENCE, WOULD BE THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW PROCEDURES WOULD CHANGE THE WAY PAPERWORK IS HANDLED BOTH IN THE EMBASSY AND THE GOP.

7. THE AMOUNT OF TRAFFIC DEALING WITH ARMS TRANSFERS IS CONSIDERABLE, THE GREAT MAJORITY OF IT CONCERNED WITH MINOR ITEMS OF AN ESSENTIALLY HOUSEKEEPING NATURE. WE HAVE NO BASIC DIFFICULTY WITH USING STATE RATHER THAN ODRP CHANNELS TO WASHINGTON TO REPORT GOP INTEREST IN MUNITIONS LIST ITEMS. SINCE THE SAME CLEARANCES WILL BE REQUIRED IN THE EMBASSY, AND SAME ADDRESSEES IN WASHINGTON WILL RECEIVE THE CABLES AT THE SAME TIME, THE ONLY DIFFERENCE WILL BE THAT THE MESSAGES WILL BE TYPED AND SENT ACCORDING TO STATE RATHER THAN DOD PROCEDURES.

8. IF ALL COMMUNICATIONS ON MILITARY SALES WITH THE GOP WERE HANDLED BY DIPLOMATIC RATHER THAN MILITARY CHANNELS, ALL PAPERS EMANATING FROM THE EMBASSY WOULD HAVE THE SAME EMBASSY CLEARANCES BUT WOULD BE IN THE FORM OF DIPLOMATIC NOTES RATHER THAN ODRP-PAK MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS. THUS ON THE U.S. SIDE THE CHANGE

WOULD BE SIMPLE TO MAKE. HOWEVER, WE ARE RELUCTANT TO INSIST THAT THE GOP SIDE MUST ALSO MAKE A COMPARABLE CHANGE, BY REQUIRING THEM TO REPLY TO THE EMBASSY BY DIPLOMATIC NOTE THROUGH MOFA. ASIDE FROM THE DUBIOUS PROPRIETY OF OUR TELLING THE GOP HOW TO ORGANIZE ITS INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS, A PRACTICAL DISADVANTAGE, IN A GOVERNMENT NOT NOTED FOR EFFICIENCY, WOULD BE ADDITIONAL CONFUSION AND DELAY AS MOFA IS REQUIRED TO TAKE ON A NON-SUBSTANTIVE, PROCEDURAL RESPONSIBILITY. ALSO, SINCE THE GOP IS FULLY AWARE OF THE FUNDAMENTALLY DIPLOMATIC AND PLITICAL NATURE OF OUR ARMS SALES PROGRAM, THE CHANGE WOULD NOT AFFECT THE WAY THEY VIEW OUR ARMS TRANSFER POLICIES, OR THE HIGH LEVEL REVIEW NOT GIVEN, IN THE GOP, TO SUCH MATTERS. WE CONSEQUENTLY RECOMMEND THAT WE BE AUTHORIZED TO CONTINUE TO HAVE DIRECT ODRP-PAK MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS, PRESERVING THE EXISTING

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SYSTEM OF EMBASSY CLEARANCES ON ALL MESSAGE TO THE PAKISTAN MILITARY.

9. ALL CONCERNED ELEMENTS OF THE COUNTRY TEAM HAVE CLEARED THIS MESSAGE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMS, POLICIES, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 08-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARMS TRANSFER POLICY
TAGS: MASS, PK, US
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